Listing of claims:

1   1-34. (Cancelled)

1   35. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a product that is associated with a

2   number of configurable features, wherein the method allows a customer to

3   dynamically interact with a seller of the product over the Internet during the

4   configuration, the method comprising:

5   receiving into a configuration application of the seller a selected feature;

6   communicating from the seller to a manufacturer the selected feature;

7   receiving from the manufacturer over the Internet an automated response to the

8   communicated selected feature, the automated response including an

9   availability date that corresponds to the selected feature from the

10   manufacturer; and

11   updating an in-process bill of materials to reflect that the selected feature and the

12   availability date;

13   wherein the availability date received from the manufacturer over the Internet is

14   provided to or by a supply chain planning (SCP) system.

1   36-38. (Cancelled)

1   39. (Currently Amended) A method for selling a configurable product incorporating at

2   least one feature to be selected by a customer, the method comprising:

3   (a) receiving a feature selection at a seller;

4   (b) updating an inventory library based upon the received selection to reflect

5   constraints imposed by the received <u>feature</u> selection<u>, the constraints</u>

6   <u>relating to a technical feature limitation, a price limitation or availability</u>

7   <u>of the</u> configurable <u>product</u>;

8   (c) providing the received selection to a supplier;

9   (d) receiving information from the supplier comprising at least one of availability

10   date and price for the received selection;

11   (e) where customer desires are not satisfied, providing at least one of a customer

12   desired availability date and a customer desired price for the selection;

13   (f) providing accommodation data from the supplier, the accommodation data

14   responsive to the at least one of the customer desired availability date and

15   the customer desired price for the selection; and

16   (g) updating at least one of a manufacturing bill of materials, a pricing bill of

17   materials, and a configuration bill of materials based on the received

18   selection;

19   wherein the customer desires comprise either at least one of a plurality of

20   availability dates or at least one of a plurality of prices, for the selected

21   feature.

1   40. (Currently Amended) A method for selling a configurable product incorporating at

2   least one feature to be selected by a customer, the method comprising:

3   (a) receiving a feature selection at a seller<u>, the seller being a seller of the</u>

4   <u>configurable product to the customer</u>;

5   (b) updating an inventory library based upon the received selection to reflect

6   constraints imposed by the selection and relating to compatibility among

7   features of the configurable product;

8   (c) providing the received selection to a supplier of inventory to the seller;

9   (d) receiving information from the supplier, the information comprising a

10   plurality of availability dates and a plurality of prices for the received

11   selection;

12   (e) where customer desires are not satisfied, providing at least one of a customer

13   desired availability date and a customer desired price for the received

14   selection;

15   (f) providing to the customer accommodation data from the supplier, the

16   accommodation data responsive to the at least one of the customer desired

17   availability date and the customer desired price for the selection; and

18   (g) updating at least one of a manufacturing bill of materials, a pricing bill of

19   materials, and a configuration bill of materials based on the received

20   selection.

1   41-49. (Cancelled)

2   50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising: repeating the

3   steps of receiving into a configuration application a selected feature,

4   communicating to a manufacturer the selected feature, receiving from the

5   manufacturer an automated response including an availability date, and updating a

6   number of times until the configuration is complete thereby yielding a completed

7   bill of materials.

1   51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of receiving from the

2   manufacturer an automated response including an availability date is preceded by

3   the step of: communicating the selected feature to a vendor.

1   52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, the method further comprising: in

2   response to the received availability date being unsatisfactory to the customer,

3   communicating a customer specified availability date to at least one of the seller

4   and manufacturer.

1   53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the availability date received

2   from the manufacturer is in response to a customer specified availability date

3   communicated to at least one of the seller and manufacturer.

1   54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the availability date received

2   from the manufacturer is in response to a customer specified price communicated

3   to at least one of the seller and manufacturer.

1   55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising: deriving, from

2   the in-process bill of materials, an in-process manufacturing bill of materials that

3   reflects the received availability date that corresponds to the selected feature.

1   56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, the method further comprising:

2   receiving a price that corresponds to the selected feature.

1   57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~35~~56, the method further comprising: in

2   response to the received price being unsatisfactory to the customer,

3   communicating a customer specified price to at least one of the seller and

4   manufacturer.

1   58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the price received is in

2   response to a customer specified availability date communicated to at least one of

3   the seller and manufacturer.

1   59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the price received is in

2   response to a customer specified price communicated to at least one of the seller

3   and manufacturer.

1   60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~56~~35, wherein a relationship between the

2   customer and the seller has a configuration side associated with the customer, and

3   a resource planning side associated with the seller, and ~~that~~the ~~configuration side~~

4   ~~resource planning side~~customer-seller relationship is respectively one of a

5   consumer-seller relationship, a seller-~~manufacturer~~supplier relationship and a

6   ~~manufacturer~~supplier-vendor relationship.

1   61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, further comprising:

2   in response to the price of the selected feature being determined on the

3   configuration side, deriving an in-process pricing bill of materials from the

4   in-process bill of materials, wherein the in-process pricing bill of materials

5   reflects the price of the selected feature; and

6   in response to the price of the selected feature being determined on the resource

7   planning side, deriving the in-process pricing bill of materials from an in-

8   process manufacturing bill of materials that is derived from the in-process

9   bill of materials and reflects the received availability date of the selected

10   feature.

1   62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the pricing bill of materials

2   is derived from the configuration bill of materials.

1   63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the pricing bill of materials

2   is derived from the manufacturing bill of materials.

1   64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the step (g) of updating at

2   least one of a manufacturing bill of materials, a pricing bill of materials, and a

3   configuration bill of materials is based upon the accommodation data from the

4   supplier.

1   65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the pricing bill of materials

2   is derived from the configuration bill of materials.

1   66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the pricing bill of materials

2   is derived from the manufacturing bill of materials.

1 67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step (g) of updating at

2   least one of a manufacturing bill of materials, a pricing bill of materials, and a

3   configuration bill of materials is based upon the accommodation data from the

4   supplier.

1 68. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a product having at least one

2   selectable feature, the method comprising:

3   receiving, from a customer, a selection of a feature of the product at a

4   configuration application of a seller of the product, the seller being a seller

5   of the product to the customer;

6   communicating the received selection from the configuration application to a

7   supplier system of a supplier to the seller;

8   receiving from the supplier system an automated response to the communicated

9   received selection, the automated response including an availability date

10   of the selected feature;

11   updating an in-process bill of materials based upon the availability date of the

12   selected feature; and

13   using the updated in-process bill of materials to determine a first availability date

14   of the product, the first availability date of the product being based on at

15   least the availability date of the selected feature; and

16   providing the first availability date of the product to the customer.

1 69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the automated response is

2   generated by a manufacturer of the selected feature.

1　70. (Currently Amended)- A method for configuring a product having at least one

2　　　　selectable feature, the method comprising:

3　　　receiving, from a customer, a selection of a feature of the product at a

4　　　　　configuration application of a seller of the product;

5　　　communicating the received selection from the configuration application to a

6　　　　　supplier system;

7　　　receiving from the supplier system an automated response to the communicated

8　　　　　received selection, the automated response including an availability date

9　　　　　of the selected feature;

10　　updating an in-process bill of materials based upon the availability date of the

11　　　　selected feature; and

12　　using the updated in-process bill of materials to determine a first availability date

13　　　　of the product, the first availability date of the product being based on at

14　　　　least the availability date of the selected feature; and

15　　providing the first availability date of the product to the customer.

16　　The method of claim 68, wherein the automated response includes a plurality of

17　　　　availability dates, each of the plurality of availability dates associated with

18　　　　a different price of the selected feature.

1　71. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a product having at least one

2　　　　selectable feature, the method comprising:

3　　　receiving, from a customer, a selection of a feature of the product at a

4　　　　　configuration application of a seller of the product;

5   communicating the received selection from the configuration application to a

6   supplier system;

7   receiving from the supplier system an automated response to the communicated

8   received selection, the automated response including an availability date

9   of the selected feature;

10   updating an in-process bill of materials based upon the availability date of the

11   selected feature; and

12   using the updated in-process bill of materials to determine a first availability date

13   of the product; the first availability date of the product being based on at

14   least the availability date of the selected feature;

15   providing the first availability date of the product to the customer;

16   providing to the customer a determined second availability date of the product;

17   providing to the customer a first product price associated with the first availability

18   date of the product;

19   providing to the customer a second product price associated with the second

20   availability date of the product; The method of claim 68, further including

21   providing to the customer a determined second availability date of the product;;

22   providing to the customer a first product price associated with the first availability

23   date of the product;; and

24   providing to the customer a second product price associated with the second

25   availability date of the product;;

26   wherein the automated response further includes a plurality of availability dates

27   associated with the selected feature, each of the plurality of availability

28   dates associated with a different price of the selected feature.

1   72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the first availability date of

2   the product, determined using the updated in-process bill of materials, is further

3   based on an availability date of another selectable feature.

1   73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, further including receiving, at the

2   configuration application, a feature price that corresponds to the selected feature.

1   74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, further including updating a product

2   price responsive to the received feature price, and providing the updated product

3   price to the customer.

1   75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the received feature price is

2   responsive to a customer specified availability date communicated to the seller

3   and to the manufacturer.

1   76. (Previously Presented) A method for configuring a product using a computer

2   network, the method comprising:

3   receiving at a configuration engine a set of constraints defining a first set of valid

4   configurations of a product, the product having at least a first selectable

5   feature and a second selectable feature, the set of constraints being

6   determined by a seller or a manufacturer;

7   receiving at the configuration engine a customer specified constraint, the

8   customer specified constraint being received from a customer and being

9   received using the computer network;

10   receiving at the configuration engine a selection of the first selectable feature, the

11   received selection being received from the customer and being received

12   using the computer network;

13   determining a second set of valid configurations of the product, the second set of

14   valid configurations being a subset of the first set of valid configurations

15   and being constrained by the customer specified constraint and the

16   received selection;

17   determining at least two possible configurations of the second selectable feature

18   that satisfy the second set of valid configurations of the product; and

19   providing to the customer the determined at least two configurations of the second

20   selectable feature, using the computer network.

1   77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein the customer specified

2   constraint includes an availability date of the product.

1   78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein the customer specified

2   constraint includes a price of the product or a feature price.

1   79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, further including determining a

2   feature price using the received selection and using the feature price to update a

3   product price.

1 80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, further including determining a

2   feature availability date using the received selection, and using the feature

3   availability date to determine a product availability date.

1 81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein determining at least two

2   configurations of the second selectable feature that satisfy the second set of valid

3   configurations includes identifying a third configuration of the second selectable

4   feature that would be an invalid configuration due to the customer specified

5   constraint.

1 82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, further including receiving at the

2   configuration engine a feature availability date from a supply system of a

3   manufacturer.

1 83. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a product having at least one

2   configurable feature, the method comprising:

3   receiving, from a customer, a selection of a feature of the product, at a

4   configuration application of a seller of the product, the seller being a seller

5   of the product to the customer;

6   communicating the received selection from the configuration application of the

7   seller to a supplier system of a manufacturer, the manufacturer configured

8   to supply the feature to the seller;

9   receiving from the manufacturer an automated response to the communicated

10   received selection, the automated response including an availability date

11   of the selected feature or a price of the selected feature;

12   updating an in-process bill of materials using the automated response;

13   using the updated in-process bill of materials to determine an availability date of

14   the product and a price of the product based on the received selection; and

15   providing, to the customer, the determined first availability date of the product

16   and the determined price of the product.

1   84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein communicating the received

2   selection from the configuration system to the supplier system includes

3   communicating using the Internet.

1   185. (Previously Presented) A method for configuring a product that is associated with a

2   number of configurable features, wherein the method allows a customer to

3   dynamically interact with a seller of the product over the Internet during the

4   configuration, the method comprising:

5   receiving into a configuration application of the seller a selected feature, from the

6   customer;

7   communicating from the seller to a manufacturer the selected feature;

8   receiving from the manufacturer an automated response including an availability

9   date that corresponds to the selected feature; and

10   updating an in-process bill of materials to reflect that selected feature.

1   286. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 185, further comprising:

2 repeating the steps of receiving into a configuration application a selected feature,

3 communicating to a manufacturer the selected feature, receiving from the

4 manufacturer an automated response including an availability date, and

5 updating a number of times until the configuration is complete thereby

6 yielding a completed bill of materials.

1 873. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 185, wherein the step of receiving from

2 the manufacturer an automated response including an availability date is preceded

3 by the step of:

4 communicating the selected feature to a vendor.

5

6 884. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 185, the method further comprising:

7 in response to the received availability date being unsatisfactory to the customer,

8 communicating a customer specified availability date to at least one of the

9 seller and manufacturer.

1 895. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 185, wherein the availability date

2 received from the manufacturer is in response to a customer specified availability

3 date communicated to at least one of the seller and manufacturer.

1 906. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 185, wherein the availability date

2 received from the manufacturer is in response to a customer specified price

3 communicated to at least one of the seller and manufacturer.

1 917. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 185, further comprising:

2   deriving, from the in-process bill of materials, an in-process manufacturing bill of

3   materials that reflects the received availability date that corresponds to the

4   selected feature.

1   8~~8~~92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ~~1~~85, the method further comprising:

2   receiving a price that corresponds to the selected feature.

1   9~~3~~3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8~~8~~92, the method further comprising:

2   in response to the received price being unsatisfactory to the customer,

3   communicating a customer specified price to at least one of the seller and

4   manufacturer.

1   ~~10~~94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8~~8~~92, wherein the price received is in

2   response to a customer specified availability date communicated to at least one of

3   the seller and manufacturer.

1   ~~11~~95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8~~8~~92, wherein the price received is in

2   response to a customer specified price communicated to at least one of the seller

3   and manufacturer.

1   96~~12~~. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8~~8~~92, wherein a relationship between the

2   customer and the seller has a configuration side associated with the customer, and

3   a resource planning side associated with the seller, and ~~that configuration side~~

4   ~~resource planning side~~the customer-seller relationship is ~~respectively one of a~~

5 consumer-seller relationship, ~~a seller-manufacturer relationship and a~~

6 ~~manufacturer-vendor relationship~~.

1 ~~13~~97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ~~12~~96, further comprising:

2   in response to the price of the selected feature being determined on the

3   configuration side, deriving an in-process pricing bill of materials from the

4   in-process bill of materials, wherein the in-process pricing bill of materials

5   reflects the price of the selected feature; and

6   in response to the price of the selected feature being determined on the resource

7   planning side, deriving the in-process pricing bill of materials from an in-

8   process manufacturing bill of materials that is derived from the in-process

9   bill of materials and reflects the received availability date of the selected

10   feature.

1 ~~14~~98. (Currently Amended) A system for configuring a product that is associated with a

2   number of configurable features, wherein the system allows a customer to interact

3   with a supplier of <u>one or more of</u> the <u>configurable features</u> ~~product~~ over the

4   Internet during the configuration, the system comprising:

5   a configuration application of a <u>seller</u> ~~supplier~~ <u>configured</u> for receiving a <u>selection</u>

6   <u>of a</u> ~~product~~ feature <u>of the product from a customer</u> ~~selected by the~~

7   ~~customer~~, and for validating a number of constraints associated with ~~that~~

8   the ~~product~~ <u>selected</u> feature<u>, the constraints relating to compatibility</u>

9   <u>between the selected feature and other features of the product or</u>

10   availability of the product including the selected feature, the seller being a

11   seller of the product to the customer;

12   a communication module coupled to the configuration application for

13   communicating the selected ~~product~~ feature from the seller to ~~the~~ a

14   supplier, and for ~~communicating~~ receiving over the Internet an availability

15   date of ~~that~~ the ~~product~~ selected feature from the supplier to the

16   configuration application, the supplier being a supplier of the selected

17   feature to the seller; and

18   a first storage area coupled to one of the configuration application and the

19   communication module for storing an in-process bill of materials that

20   reflects the selected ~~product~~ feature ~~selected by the customer~~.

1   ~~15~~99. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~14~~98, wherein after the customer has

2   completed ~~the configuration~~ configuring the product, the in-process bill of

3   materials represents a completed bill of materials.

1   ~~16~~100. (Previously Presented) The system of claim ~~14~~98, wherein in response to the

2   availability date being unsatisfactory to the customer, the communication module

3   communicates a customer specified availability date to the supplier.

1   ~~17~~101. (Previously Presented) The system of claim ~~14~~98, wherein the availability date is

2   in response to a customer specified availability date communicated to the supplier

3   by the communication module.

1 ~~18~~102. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~14~~98, wherein the availability date is

2 in response to a customer specified price communicated to the supplier by the

3 communication module_.

1 ~~19~~103. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~14~~98, wherein an in-process

2 manufacturing bill of materials is derived from the in-process bill of materials,

3 and reflects the availability date of the selected ~~product~~ feature.

1 ~~20~~104. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~14~~98, further comprising:

2 a second storage area coupled to one of the configuration application and the

3 communication module for storing an in-process manufacturing bill of

4 materials that reflects the availability date of the selected ~~product~~ feature;

5 and

6 a third storage area coupled to one of the configuration application and the

7 communication module for storing an in-process pricing bill of materials

8 that reflects a price of the selected ~~product~~ feature.

1 ~~21~~105. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~14~~98, wherein the communication

2 module is also for communicating a price of the selected ~~product~~ feature from the

3 supplier to the configuration application.

1 ~~22~~106. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~21~~105, wherein the communication

2 module comprises:

3   an availability date communication module for communicating the availability

4   date of the selected ~~product~~ feature from the supplier to the configuration

5   application; and

6   a price communication module for communicating the price of the selected

7   ~~product~~ feature to the configuration application.

1 ~~23~~107. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~14~~98, wherein a relationship between

2   the customer and the ~~supplier~~ seller has a configuration side associated with the

3   customer, and a resource planning side associated with the ~~supplier~~seller, and ~~that~~

4   ~~configuration side-resource planning side~~the customer-seller relationship is

5   respectively one of a consumer-seller relationship, a seller-manufacturer

6   relationship and a manufacturer-vendor relationship.

1 ~~24~~108. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~23~~107, wherein:

2   in response to the price of the selected ~~product~~ feature being determined on the

3   configuration side, an in-process pricing bill of materials is derived from

4   the in-process bill of materials, wherein the in-process pricing bill of

5   materials reflects the price of the selected feature; and

6   in response to the price of the selected ~~product~~ feature being determined on the

7   resource planning side, the in-process pricing bill of materials is derived

8   from an in-process manufacturing bill of materials that is derived from the

9   in-process bill of materials and reflects the received availability date of the

10   selected feature.

1 ~~25~~109. (Previously Presented) The system of claim ~~14~~98, further comprising:

2   a user interface coupled to the configuration application for allowing the customer

3   to interact with the system..

1   26110. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1498, further comprising:

2   an inventory library coupled to the configuration application for providing the

3   customer a number of the configurable product features that can be

4   selected to configure the product.

1   11127. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a product that is associated with a

2   number of configurable features, wherein the method allows a customer to

3   dynamically interact with a supplier of the product over the Internet during the

4   configuration, the method comprising:

5   communicating a customer selection of aed product feature to the supplier, the

6   supplier being a supplier of the product to the customer;

7   receiving at the customerfrom the supplier an availability date from the supplier,

8   the availability date that corresponds corresponding to that the customer

9   selected product feature;

10   communicating a customer specified new availability date to the supplier in

11   response to the availability date received from the supplier being

12   unsatisfactory to the customer, communicating a customer specified

13   availability date to the supplier; and

14   receiving from the supplier an automated response including an accommodation

15   based on the customer specified new availability date.

1   11228. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27111, further comprising:

2 updating a bill of materials to reflect the accommodation received from the

3   supplier.

1 113~~29~~. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ~~27~~111, wherein the accommodation

2 is one of an availability date that satisfies the customer specified availability date,

3 and a reduced price.

1 114~~30~~. (Previously Presented) A process for configuring a product that is associated with

2 a number of configurable features, wherein the customer dynamically interacts

3 with a seller of the product over the Internet in order to define a set of sales

4 parameters that includes an availability date of at least one of the configurable

5 features, the method comprising:

6 responsive to the customer selecting a feature of the product, receiving at the

7   seller an automated response from a manufacturer, the automated response

8   including an availability date that corresponds to that selected feature;

9 responsive to the received availability date being unsatisfactory to the customer,

10   communicating a customer specified availability date to the manufacturer;

11 updating an in-process bill of materials to reflect that selected feature; and

12 in response to the customer being satisfied with the sales parameters, submitting a

13   completed bill of materials to the manufacturer.

1 ~~31~~115. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, stored on a computer

2 readable medium, for configuring a product that is associated with a number of

3 configurable features, wherein in response to the computer program product being

4 executed by a processor, the processor performs the steps of:

5   receiving from a supplier over the Internet an availability date that corresponds to

6   a product feature selected by a customer, the supplier being a supplier to a

7   seller, the customer being a customer of the seller;

8   in response to the availability date being unsatisfactory to the customer,

9   communicating over the Internet a customer specified availability date to

10   the supplier; and

11   receiving from the supplier over the Internet an automated response including an

12   accommodation based on the customer specified availability date.

1   ~~32~~116. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim ~~31~~115, further

2 comprising:

3   updating a bill of materials to reflect the accommodation received from the

4   supplier.

1   ~~33~~117. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, stored on a computer

2   readable medium, for configuring a product that is associated with a number of

3   configurable features, wherein in response to the computer program product being

4   executed by a processor, the processor performs the steps of:

5   responsive to a customer selecting a feature of the product, receiving ~~from a~~

6   ~~manufacturer~~ over the Internet at a seller an automated response including

7   an availability date that corresponds to ~~that~~ the selected feature, the

8   automated response being from a manufacturer of the selected feature;

9   responsive to the received availability date being unsatisfactory to the customer,

10   communicating a customer specified availability date to the manufacturer;

11   updating an in-process bill of materials to reflect ~~that~~ the selected feature; and

12   in response to the customer being satisfied with a set of sales parameters

13   including the availability date of the selected feature, submitting a

14   completed bill of materials to the manufacturer over the Internet.

1   ~~34~~118. (Currently Amended) A system for configuring a product that is associated with a

2   number of configurable features, wherein the system allows a customer to interact

3   with a supplier of the product over the Internet during the configuration, the

4   system comprising:

5   configuration application means for receiving at a seller of the product a selection

6   by the customer of a product feature, the product feature ~~selected by the~~

7   ~~customer~~ being one of the number of configurable features, and for

8   validating a number of constraints associated with ~~that~~ the selected

9   product feature;

10   communication module means coupled to the configuration application means for

11   communicating from the seller to the supplier the selected product feature

12   ~~to the supplier~~, and for communicating over the Internet an availability

13   date of ~~that~~ the selected product feature from the supplier to the

14   configuration application means, the supplier being a supplier of the

15   selected product feature to the seller; and

16   storage area means coupled to at least one of the configuration application means

17   and the communication module means for storing an in-process bill of

18   materials that reflects the product feature selected by the user.

1   36119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 185, wherein the availability date

2   received from the manufacturer over the Internet is provided by an enterprise

3   resource planning (ERP) system.

1   37120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30114, wherein the step of

2   communicating a customer specified availability date to the manufacturer is

3   followed by receiving from the manufacturer an automated response including an

4   accommodation in response to the customer specified availability date.

1   38121. (Currently Amended) A method for selling a configurable product incorporating

2   at least one feature to be selected by a customer, the method comprising:

3   (a) receiving at a seller a feature selection by the customer;

4   (b) updating an inventory library based upon the received selection to reflect

5   constraints imposed by the received selection;

6   (c) providing the received selection to a supplier, the supplier being a supplier of

7   the feature to the seller;

8   (d) receiving information from the supplier comprising at least one of availability

9   date and price for the received selection;

10   (e) where customer desires are not satisfied, providing at least one of a customer

11   desired availability date and a customer desired price for the received

12   selection;

13   (f) displaying accommodation data from the supplier corresponding to the

14   customer desires; and

15   (g) updating at least one of a manufacturing bill of materials, a pricing bill of

16   materials, and a configuration bill of materials based on the selection.

1   41122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38121, wherein the pricing bill of

2   materials is derived from the configuration bill of materials.

1   42123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38121, wherein the pricing bill of

2   materials is derived from the manufacturing bill of materials.

1   43124. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38121, wherein the step (g) of

2   updating at least one of a manufacturing bill of materials, a pricing bill of

3   materials, and a configuration bill of materials is based upon the accommodation

4   data from the supplier.

1   44125. (Currently Amended) A system for selling a configurable product incorporating

2   at least one feature to be selected by a customer from a catalog of selectable

3   features, the system comprising:

4   an inventory library coupled to a configuration engine of a seller of the

5   configurable product, the inventory library configured for providing a the

6   catalog of selectable features , the catalog of selectable featuresthat

7   corresponding to a particular configurable product;

8   a user interface coupled to the configuration engine using the Internet, the user

9   interface for displaying the catalog of selectable features and for receiving

10   customer desires; and

11   a supplier system coupled to the configuration engine using the Internet, the

12   supplier system <u>being associated with a supplier of the at least one feature</u>

13   <u>to the seller of the configurable product and being configured </u>for

14   providing at least one of availability information and price information to

15   at least one of the user interface, the configuration engine, and the

16   inventory library, and for providing accommodation data to the

17   configuration engine in automated response to customer desires

18   communicated to the supplier system, the configuration engine for

19   validating the customer desires against constraints associated with the

20   selectable features, for determining whether the at least one of availability

21   information and price information meet customer desires, and for

22   communicating specific customer desires to the supplier system.

1   45126. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44125, wherein the user interface,

2   configuration engine, and supplier system are remotely located with respect to

3   each other.

1   46127. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 44125, wherein the configuration

2   engine further comprises:

3   a configuration application,

4   a price communication module,

5   an availability communication module, and

6   means for creating and updating at least one of a configuration bill of materials, a

7   manufacturing bill of materials, and a pricing bill of materials.

1   47128. (Previously Presented) A method of selling from a supplier a product, the product

2   including at least one selectable feature to be chosen by a customer, the method

3   comprising:

4   providing to a customer a selectable feature, and at least one of price and

5   availability date of the selectable feature;

6   conveying to the supplier at least one of a customer desired availability date and a

7   customer desired price; and

8   supplying an automated response to a seller, the automated response including an

9   accommodation from the supplier based on the at least one of a customer

10   desired availability date and a customer desired price.

1   48129. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47128, wherein the customer is

2   chosen from one of thea set consisting of a retailer, and wholesaler, and

3   manufacturer and distributor, of the product.

1   49130. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47128, wherein the supplier is chosen

2   from one of thea set consisting of a retailer and wholesaler, and manufacturer, and

3   distributor and vendor, of the product.